

Preface

Dear Readers,

We present you with a new issue of the quarterly prepared by the National Security Bureau (BBN), the first one in 2011. While the previous edition of the “Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe” (National Security) focused on political and strategic plane of security, emphasising particularly the recently passed new NATO Strategic Concept, this issue starts with a analysis of cyber wars – one of non-traditional threats, the so-called asymmetric ones, whose effect, range and role are not fully realised among the broad public. Negative elements of information games in the fight for influence and domination deserve particular attention in the context of the young Polish democracy contending with different types of corruption phenomena in the environment of low social culture, legal loopholes, informal relations, etc. We have also decided that it is worth to pay attention to the problem of home-grown terrorism, which is a considerably new type of threat in the spectrum of this sort of hazards faced by the West European democracies. With regard to other Polish issues relating to the non-military fields, we would like to recommend a discussion about Poland’s energy security in the context of the new EU legislation and an analysis dedicated to the situation of the Polish minority in Lithuania. The latter study brings up several reflections not only on gross violations of the European acquis and bilateral disputes, but also on the immaturity and lack of self-confidence among the young democracies, who – one might think – should feel safe in the European Union family.

With regard to Poland’s security concepts and practice we present two articles: on crisis management and on the interrelationship between three strategic ventures: the Strategic Review of the National Security – the BBN flagship project initiated by the President of Poland, the National Security Strategy and the Strategic Defence Review. That chapter should help the readers to better understand both the partial and “global” fields of consolidation and development of this crucial domain.

The problem of building safe neighbourhood for Poland has been reflected in the quarterly in the chapters concerning the French-German-Polish Weimar Triangle and relations with Ukraine. In a broader context, we also indicate risks and threats that the economic crisis in Europe might bring to the EU and Poland. One may conclude that Poland’s active policy and actions undertaken on different international levels are the best guarantee for attaining the above-mentioned goal.

This issue ends with discussion concerning the condition of Polish defence industry potential – the critical dimension for the defence and economy – and simultaneously a very difficult challenge, that is, facing up to the conditions on European and world's markets.

It is regrettable that we did not foresee the “winter-spring of nations” revolts in the Maghreb and the Middle East in 2011. Yet, we know we are not the only ones that failed to do so. We promise to fill in the gap in the next edition of the “Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe” quarterly.

In parallel to the work done on this new quarterly issue we also were preparing materials of the conference “*National Security of the Republic of Poland at the Turn of the Century: Experience of the National Security Bureau – Strategic Challenges*”, organized to mark the 20th anniversary of the National Security Bureau, held on 31 January 2011. They will be included in the coming issue of the “Bezpieczeństwo Narodowe” Library.

Enjoy the reading!

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